GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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Contents for Week of October 29, 1928. Vol. VII. No. 15.

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NEARLY ONE-FOURTH OF THE CANTONESE HAVE HOMES ON THE WATER

(See Bulletin No. 4)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Tirana Becomes a Royal Capital

ALBANIA, for eight years a republic, has crowned President Ahmed Zogu its king.

Thus Tirana, capital of Albania, joins the ranks of European royal cities. The modest "White House" will become a palace, and "Mr. President" will be properly addressed "His Majesty."

Until a few years ago Tirana was as little known as the rest of Albania is to-day. Boat loads of tourists drifted down the Albanian coast, stopping now and then at some picturesque island or at a coastal village, but they seldom ventured far inland.

When Ox-carts Were Taxis to Tirana

At Durazzo, former capital, and now Tirana's seaport, they took one glance at the impassible roads to the interior and another glance at the springless ox-carts and donkeys which were then the only Albanian taxis. Then most of them decided to see Tirana when conditions were improved.

Travel to the capital has changed since King Zogu established government headquarters there in 1925. Bus service on the new road from Tirana to Durazzo brings increasing numbers of travelers, and the once quiet little Moslem city is making noteworthy progress.

The mosque domes and minarets that once dominated the city's sky-line are now being encroached upon by modern government buildings and legations of foreign governments that recognized Albanian sovereignty. Hotels are also poking their upper stories above the red roofs of old Tirana's mud-walled houses, and new avenues, parks and public gardens have been laid out for the enjoyment of the city's inhabitants and guests.

Albanians are not a traveled people. Their first railroad now is under construction between Durazzo and Tirana, and save for a narrow rim along the Adriatic seaboard, there are few roads within the country's borders. But the social aspect of the capital has changed with the coming of representatives of foreign governments. At the new Sports Club, Albanians rub elbows with resident diplomats, and the Albanian women now compete against the ladies of the legations on the tennis courts.

Some Albanians Wear a Fortune on Their Waistcoats

The Tirana market-place is one of the few spots in the city that has not been disturbed by the newcomers, and here, among the vegetables and fruits piled on the cobbles, roam folk of the surrounding mountains and valleys, apparently unmoved by the changes taking place in their capital.

Both the Ghegs of the north and the Tosks of the south crowd the market. Mingling with the lively throngs, one sees a bewhiskered Moslem holy man whose sombre robes sharply contrast with the flaming colors of the natives' garments. The Ghegs, three-fourths of whom are Moslems, can be singled out from the rest of the crowd by their gray half-size fezzes which resemble the aluminum lids which keep pancakes warm on American restaurant tables. They also wear loose-fitting, sleeveless, buttonless jackets, tight-fitting trousers and homemade sandals of ox-hide.

© Photograph by W. D. Holmes

A CARAVANSARY, OR DESERT HOTEL, IN NORTHWEST INDIA

This is a very ancient type of hotel common to Asia and North Africa. Animals and men are entertained in this hotel, as you will see if you look closely. The unbroken wall protects the hotel's patrons from bandits. Entrance may be had through only one gate. A traveler has the privilege of sleeping in the open veranda, seen just above the gate, or in closed rooms farther to the right. The center is left free for all the animals of the caravans. Camels, horses, cows and donkeys are within the shelter (See Bulletin No. 3).

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Knights of Malta, Banished 406 Years, Return to Crusader Citadel

GIRT with armor, their banners flying, the Knights of Malta, a few months ago, marched back into their ancient fortress city of Rhodes.

Grand master, knights and squires went in and reoccupied the same castles and palaces which they surrendered to the Turks 406 years ago, after a desperate siege.

The brilliant company, under the Crusader flag of red bearing a white Maltese cross, marched through the same grim battlemented gate, out of which Grand Master Philippe de l'Isle Adam led the handful of Knights who had defended Rhodes for six months against an army of 140,000 Mohammedans.

How the Maltese Cross Got Its Eight Points

The return was like a legend of the Crusades come true. A wand waved and the city which had waited unchanged during four centuries, its yellowed walls, its green moat, its noble Street of Knights, its pillared hospice, its palace barracks for princely Crusaders, all were reanimated as of old by a colorful throng of the Knights.

The Italian Government waved the wand. Italy acquired Rhodes at the eastern end of the Mediterranean from Turkey during the World War and under her administration the city of the Colossus and of the Knights of Rhodes and Malta has had loving care. The walls have been patched. The harem balconies obscuring gems of medieval carving have been removed. The Street of Knights, where coats of arms hewn above stone portals serve as house numbers, was cleared of modern construction and the present members of the 900-year-old Crusader society invited to return to their ancient homes.

Everyone knows the eight-pointed Maltese cross of the Knight's banner. But few know how the cross acquired its points, about the year 1000, when the Brothers of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem founded a hospice for the succor of Christian pilgrims. Because pilgrims and traders required protection from robbers and bandits, devout knights of eight countries—Italy, Aragon, France, Provence, Auvergne, England, Germany and Castile—were attached to the hospital as a military order. Failure of the Crusades forced the Hospitallers, as they came to be known, to retreat to the Island of Rhodes. There, for 214 years, they maintained an outpost of Christianity against the rising power of Islam.

When the Turks Captured Rhodes the Knights Retired to Malta

To walk the circuit of the walls they built at Rhodes is a 2½-mile jaunt. Peeping through the embrasures, as once did cross-bowmen peering down on Sulieman's Turkish horde, one looks 100 feet down to the bottom of the wide moat cut out of solid rock. To each "langue" or nation a section of the wall was assigned to defend, and each "langue" had its own palace on the Street of Knights. Thus the walls of England run 450 yards from St. Mary's Tower, which was defended by Spain, to the Gate of St. John. Within the fortifications the Knights also built a church, a Venetian palace for the Grand Master and a hospital to fulfill the charitable vows of their order. Only the latter now stands, the other

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The Tosks, unlike their northern countrymen, prefer ornaments and their costumes are colorful. Often a Tosk will wear enough silver and gold to pay a first-class passage from Durazzo to New York.

Bulletin No. 1, October 29, 1928.

© Photograph from Gen. George P. Scriven

AN ALBANIAN WHO IS NOW SUBJECT TO A KING

The president of his country has been crowned king. The Albanian calls himself a "Skypetar"—Son of the Mountain Eagle—and he deserves the appellation, for he has made his home among the barren crags of his native land for many centuries, maintaining to a remarkable degree his independence and his racial integrity.

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Hotels of Many Lands

ON THE shores of picturesque Lake Biwa, near Kyoto, Japan, a new American style hotel has arisen.

The hotel must be ready by the first week in November because it must receive some of the throng of guests who will crowd Kyoto for the coronation celebration.

Occidental inside and out, the new Biwa hostelry is astonishingly different from the usual Japanese resort inn.

In Japan and China most of the great city establishments for the housing of the touring public are marvels of European luxury, done in European style. At their Saturday night dinner dances the great and near great of East and West mingle the customs and costumes of both hemispheres. But this is not the real Orient.

Hotel Guests Sleep on Stove Beds in China

Real Japanese atmosphere lingers about country inns with clean matting floors and walls of paper screens. Tea, oranges, and persimmons served by smiling, kimono-clad figures, and rows of shoes left outside the front door—these are the distinctive marks of a Nippon rural hotel.

The traveler finds a more startling contrast in the country inns of China, with their flat platform-like stoves which form a common bed at night and paper windows through which moistened fingers poke peek-holes for curious eyes.

How different from the skyscraper hotels of New York and other large American cities, where the window of the tourist's bedroom on the twenty-fifth floor scarcely can be opened more than a few inches without letting in a high altitude gale that sets things in a whirl! There careless or forgetful travelers can obtain tooth paste, soap, and other niceties by depositing a quarter in a slot machine in the bath room, and comb and brush and pajamas are furnished in neat oil paper packages on request. Shampoos, Turkish baths, theater tickets, current novels, roses and shoe shines are all obtainable under the same roof, at a price.

"O Solo Mio" and Macaroni in Italian Hostelries

Such is the American city hotel, familiar but exotic development of the age and civilization. In contrast the traveler may shut his eyes and picture the inns and houses of public entertainment of other lands. There are English inns with an expensive air of antiquity kept up-to-date for the traveling public; French inns where dinner is served in the garden by the host, enveloped in a great apron; and Italian inns with macaroni for luncheon every day and street singers with guitars under the open window every evening. "O Solo Mio" and other Italian airs rendered in a soulful tenor that vibrates through the very heart of the soft Italian night, make up for macaroni—eternal macaroni—and chicory in the coffee.

Memory calls up hotels in the West Indies where bedroom walls stop a foot short of the ceiling in order to admit each breeze that blows, but equally certain to let in stray scraps of talk and other bothersome noises.

There are hotels in the Philippines whose walls are mostly windows made of little squares of opaque shell set in a wooden frame. It is fortunate that they are closed only during rainy hours; for such windows admit a feeble light but obscure the view.

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two having been destroyed by the explosion of a powder magazine beneath the church in 1856, with the loss of 800 lives.

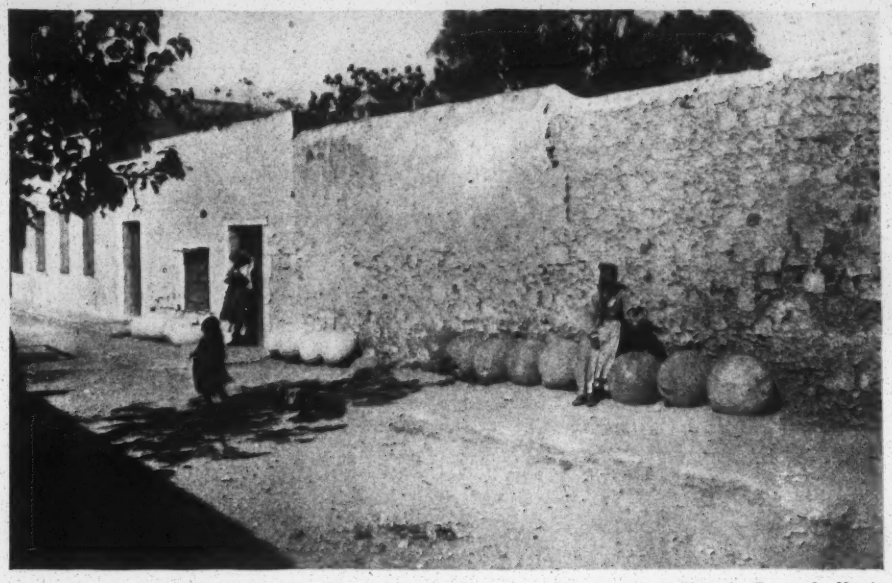
After the honorable surrender of Rhodes the Knights obtained the Island of Malta. Again the Turks attacked, but were beaten off, so the Knights retained their new kingdom, from which they take the current name of their order and cross, until the time of Napoleon.

Rhodes' great day was over. Although it has remained the chief city of the Dodecanese, it has never been more than a small fishing village off the Anatolian coast. Turks and Jews moved into the massive palaces like hermit crabs into abandoned mollusk shells. Greeks formed a colony outside the walls. To this racial and religious mixture have been added the Italians.

To-day the town presents the appearance of an ancient fortress whose keeps, magazines and dungeons have been converted into homes and stores. Housewives let down baskets from windows once barred against escape of prisoners. Sponges from Kos are piled in the Knights' parade ground. Vegetable gardens thrive in the moat and housewives cook the noonday meal inside a Gothic doorway surmounted by emblazoned stone shields. Until recently the Rhodians used the stately sarcophagus of Robert de Juillac for a watering trough.

The breech which the Turks made in the outer walls has been repaired so they stand as complete as the day they were finished some six hundred years ago. Yet evidences of the siege do remain and are put to good use by the canny Rhodians. Frequently the visitor runs across huge stone cannon balls, 18 inches in diameter, fired at the defenders by the Turks, but now serving as handy doorstep stools. One merchant sells his customers a Turkish cannon ball's weight of wood by balancing his fuel against a ball in scales with 4-foot pans. Greek sponge divers also use the 400-year-old "dud" missles to carry them down to their work on the bed of the sea.

Bulletin No. 2, October 29, 1928.



© *Photo by Ernest L. Harris*

ANCIENT CANNON BALLS AT RHODES

When the Turks, 406 years ago, laid siege to the walled city of Rhodes they bombarded the defending Knights of Malta with these 18-inch stone cannon balls. Probably the balls were catapulted over the walls. Finally the Turks triumphed and the Crusader Knights marched out and sailed away to the Island of Malta, where they built a new fortress.

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Why Most Chinese in the United States Call Canton Home

THE American branch of a Chinese family held a convention recently in Boston.

Delegates of four thousand Chinese dwelling in many States gathered before the shrine where incense floated up to a picture of the founder of their clan.

The Chinese family party in Boston well illustrates the fact that nearly all Chinese in the United States came from one locality. Kwantung Province, of which Canton is capital, is the motherland of the majority of the 60,000 Chinese now living in America.

Canton was first Chinese seaport to come into contact with the outside world. Her people in the earliest times became sailors, traders and adventurers, so it is natural that from this southern city should have started that Chinese exodus which has populated the shores of the Pacific.

More than 4,000,000 Have Emigrated from Canton

From this same region some 85,000 Chinese have gone to the Philippines, about 25,000 to Hawaii, and more than a million each to Java, Siam, Formosa, and Singapore. For most of these emigrants Canton was port of departure on their great adventure, and most of them came from the surrounding district.

Arabs traded extensively by sea with Canton in the Middle Ages. Portuguese traders arrived at the mouth of the river during the first quarter of the sixteenth century, bringing, it is said, a cargo of pepper. English ships and traders did not come upon the scene till more than a hundred years later, but from that time until after the Opium War Treaty of 1842 Canton was the only Chinese port permitting foreign trade. It is said that the Manchu dynasty favored this arrangement since Canton was the farthest great seaport from their capital.

Thus, for more than 300 years Canton alone of Chinese cities came into touch with Western lands. Her people grew accustomed to foreigners and their methods and Cantonese were the first to emigrate in large numbers.

Chinese emigration to America began with the discovery of gold in California in 1848 and with the further demand for cheap labor on the transcontinental railroads. By 1880 there were 105,500 Chinese in the United States. Then came the first of the exclusion measures in 1882. Since that time America's Chinese population has decreased some 40 per cent. More than half of the American Chinese live on the Pacific coast. In all the United States there are fewer than 8,000 Chinese women.

In American Schools and Colleges 6,000 Chinese Study

According to the census of 1920, of the forty-two races and nationalities in this country, the Chinese population is twenty-eighth. There are about one-half as many Chinese as Japanese in the United States. Although mining first attracted the Chinese to America, only 150 Chinese miners exist here to-day. Some 12,000 Chinese, one-fifth of the total population in America, are in the laundry business. About the same number are restaurant keepers, waiters and servants. On the Pacific coast are many Chinese truck gardeners, small farmers, and nurseryman. San Francisco, New York and other large cities contain Chinese merchant and banking firms which carry on extensive business operations.

There are 6,000 Chinese students of all ages and both sexes in American

Lizard "Fly-swatters" and Private Verandas in Java

There are bungalow inns in Java where each apartment opens onto a roomy private veranda of its own and lizards wander about the walls in search of stray flies and mosquitoes. The necessity for free ventilation often gives these hot taverns a clubiness disturbing to the Anglo-Saxon mind; but at least in picturesqueness of patrons they are unsurpassed.

Truly varied are the hotels of the world, and many are a far cry from the American hostelry with a radio in each room. But wherever they are, East or West, North or South, a city's inns for the entertainment of travelers are sure to be the centers of its color, life, and romance.

Bulletin No. 3, October 29, 1928.

© *Photograph by Melville Chater*

THE STREET OF KNIGHTS IN RHODES

When the Knights of Malta recently recovered their property in Rhodes after it had been withheld from them 406 years, the French Knights came back to this building. It was not difficult for them to find their own house or hotel on the Street of Knights because the Arms of France above the door serve the purpose of a house number in the United States. The harem balcony next door has probably been torn down since this photograph was taken because the Street of Knights has been given back to the Knights, who built it (See Bulletins No. 2 and 3).

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The Scilly Islands Do Their Bit in Air Mail Rescue

A SEAPLANE carrying mail, which was catapulted off the deck of a French liner nearing Europe, promptly disappeared.

France hoped while her ships hunted the shore waters for the lost aviator and plane.

Word finally came a few days later that the pilot and mail were safe in Scilly (pronounced Silly) Islands. The rescue of the aviator was scarcely more surprising than the appearance of the Scilly Islands in the news.

Lying out beyond Lands End, they seem to be out beyond notice too, yet they are the hothouses of London's flower merchants.

Before London's trees and shrubbery begin to show signs of life in the spring, tons of Scilly lilies, narcissi, tulips and daffodils are for sale in florist shops of the British capital.

The climate on the Scillies is always temperate, the Gulf Stream never letting the thermometer drop below 46 degrees, although the isles are in the same latitude as the northern tip of Newfoundland.

They Are Fragments of the Backbone of Cornwall

The Scillies form an archipelago of about 200 islands and isolated rocks, all of which lie within an area of 50 square miles. They are the rugged summits of the same granite ridge that forms the backbone of Cornwall on the mainland. Tradition has it that the isles are remnants of a lost territory which sank beneath the sea. While geologists refuse to be convinced of this, the old fishermen of the Scillies still tell of great buildings seen under the waves on calm days and of bringing up bits of ancient furnishings on their gear.

A theory was once held that the Scillies were the "Tin Islands" of the Greek geographer Herodotus, but it is now known they were not. The Scillies have no known mineral wealth. They might have been, however, the trading center where the Phoenicians, three thousand years ago, met with the Britains and bartered for tin from the Cornwall mines.

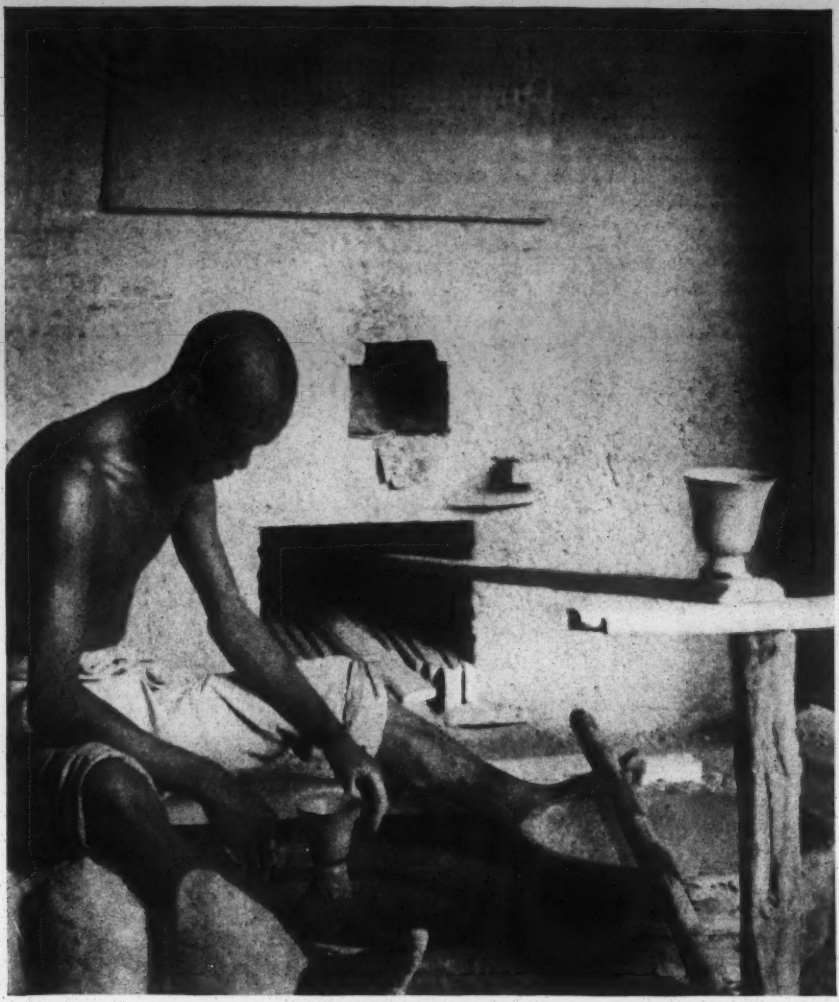
Until the building of the lonely Bishop Light on an outlying rock to the southwest, and placement of numerous other lighthouses and lightships, the Scillies were hazards to shipping between Europe and the west coast of England. Indeed, before the people went into the flower business, salvaging goods from wrecked ships was an important trade for some of the islanders.

The Source of Tons of London's Flowers

Only five of the islands, St. Mary's, Tresco, St. Martins, St. Agnes, and Bryher, are inhabited. More than half the total population of about 2,000 are on St. Mary's, the largest of the group, which is slightly more than 4 square miles in area. Hugh Town, the capital, a village of about 200 houses, is located there.

Scillians were fisher people until an enterprising islander sent a few flowers to London. The blossoms attracted such attention that the flower business was organized, and now several hundred tons of about 200 varieties of flowers are sent to London annually. From December to June practically all the inhabitants are employed in picking, packing, and dispatching flowers, which are sent by boat to Penzance, Cornwall, and then by fast train to their ultimate destination.

institutions of learning. Some six hundred of these are government students supported through the Boxer Indemnity Fund which was returned by the United States. These government students come not only from Canton but from all parts of China. Since the World War many high class Chinese business men have come to the United States. While the Chinese population of America is to-day less than it was fifty years ago, prosperity and new emigration have produced a more solid and representative community than coolie laborers of the Gold Rush days, many of whom nevertheless founded family fortunes that still endure.



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A CHINESE POTTER AT HIS WHEEL

Since the year 220 A.D. Ching-teh-chen potters have sat before their wheels fashioning the beautiful porcelain of China. Our own American forefathers were eager to buy the porcelain which China alone knew how to make. Therefore, they sent clipper ships to Canton, which was, in those days, the only Chinese port open to foreign vessels. Thus it came about that nearly all the Chinese now in America look to Canton or its province as their ancestral home.

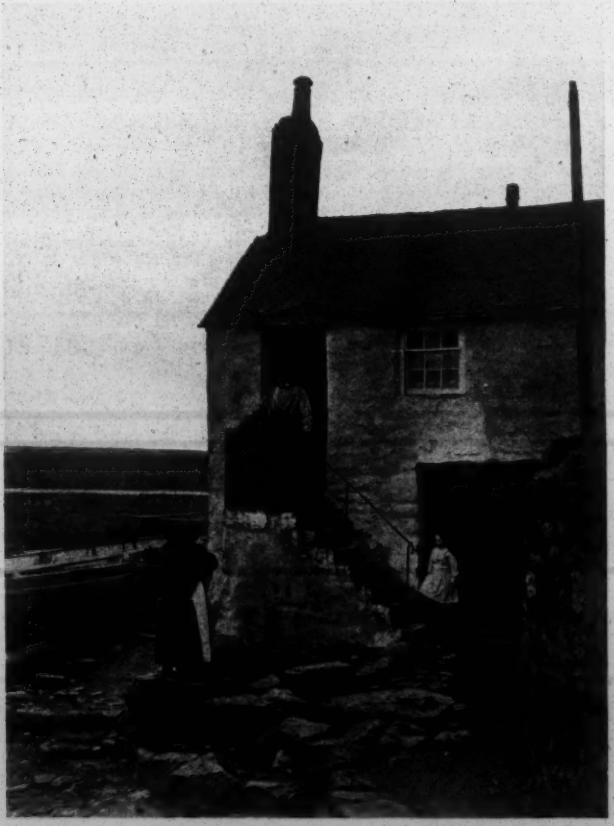
Once the haven of pirates and ne'er-do-wells, the Scillies now boast of the prosperity of their inhabitants due to their new industry, and assert that poverty has been eliminated.

The Gardens Have Also Brought Travelers to the Islands

The boat trip from Penzance to Hugh Town, a distance of 40 miles, was so rough and the Scillies so desolate that tourists formerly seldom wasted time in the neighborhood. Now the beautiful gardens, the boating under expert pilotage for which the islanders are famed, and excellent sea fishing lure an increasing tourist trade.

Except for the trees at Fresco Abbey, the residence of the lord proprietor of the isles, the whole area is nearly timberless. All lumber and manufactured products are imported.

Bulletin No. 5, October 29, 1928.



© *Photograph by A. W. Cutler*

A FISHERMAN'S HOUSE IN PENZANCE

The little town made famous by Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "Pirates of Penzance" is the English port for the Scilly Islands. To Penzance come boatloads of flowers from the islands bound for the London markets.